

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

2 1. A method of providing images to a remote site, the method comprising:

3 sensing an image of a scene;

4 establishing a connection with a remote site;

5 transmitting the sensed image to the remote site;

6 receiving a selection of a subimage of the sensed image from the remote site;

7 generating the subimage from the sensed image; and

8 transmitting the subimage to the remote site.

9  
10 2. The method of claim 1, comprising:

11 determining whether the remote site is authorized to receive images.

12  
13 3. The method of claim 1, comprising:

14 determining at least one of a priority level and an exclusivity level of the remote

15 site.

16  
17 4. The method of claim 1, comprising:

18 determining whether a channel is available for transmitting the subimage to the

19 remote site.

20  
21 5. The method of claim 4, comprising:

22 transmitting a message to the remote site asking whether the remote site is to

23 receive subimages transmitted on a channel assigned to another remote site.

24  
25 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the subimage

26 comprises:

27 generating a series of frames of the subimage.

28  
29 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of transmitting the subimage

30 comprises:

31 transmitting the series of frames of the subimage to the remote site.

1           8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of transmitting the subimage  
2 comprises:  
3           transmitting subimage data on one of a plurality of channels.  
4

5           9. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating the subimage  
6 comprises:  
7           selecting subimage data from the sensed image; and  
8           formatting the subimage data.  
9

10          10. A method of providing images to a plurality of remote sites, the method  
11 comprising:  
12          sensing an image of a scene;  
13          establishing connections with the remote sites;  
14          transmitting the sensed image to the remote sites;  
15          receiving a selection of a subimage from each of the remote sites;  
16          assigning each of the remotes sites to a channel;  
17          generating the subimage selected at each remote site; and  
18          transmitting the subimages to their respective remote sites.  
19

20          11. The method of claim 10, comprising:  
21          determining whether channels are available to transmit the subimages to the  
22 remote sites.  
23

24          12. The method of claim 10, wherein the step of transmitting the subimages  
25 comprises transmitting a series of frames of the subimages.  
26

27          13. A method of displaying images at a remote site, the method comprising:  
28          establishing a connection with an image access system;  
29          receiving a sensed image of a scene to be observed;  
30          displaying the sensed image;  
31          selecting a subimage of the sensed image;  
32          transmitting the selection of the subimage to the image access system;

receiving the subimage from the image access system; and  
displaying the subimage.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of selecting a subimage comprises:  
panning through the sensed image; and  
indicating a portion of the sensed image to be displayed.

15. An image access system comprising:  
an image sensor for sensing an image; and  
an image processing system operably coupled to the image sensor, wherein the  
image processing system receives image data from the image sensor, generates  
subimages of the sensed image, and transmits subimages to remote sites upon request by  
the remote sites.

16. The image access system of claim 15, wherein the image processing system  
comprises:  
a sensor control operably coupled to the image sensor, wherein the sensor control  
receives the image data from the image sensor.

17. The image access system of claim 16, wherein the image processing system  
comprises:  
an access control operably coupled to the sensor control and in communication  
with the remote sites, wherein the access control controls access of the remote sites to the  
image access system, the generation of subimages, and the transmission of subimages to  
the remote sites.

18. The image access system of claim 17, wherein the image processing system  
comprises:

a processor operably coupled to the access control to receive instructions from  
the access control, wherein the processor receives image data from the sensor control and  
formats image data for transmission to the remote sites.

1           19. The image access system of claim 18, wherein the image processing system  
2 comprises:

3           a frame buffer operably coupled to the sensor control and to the processor,  
4 wherein the frame buffer receives image data from the sensor and provides image data to  
5 the processor.

6  
7           20. The image access system of claim 15, wherein the image sensor includes a  
8 sensor array.  
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